

# ***Table of Contents***

## ***INTRODUCTION***

Preface.....	1
Physiography.....	3
Background.....	5
Existing Land Use and Zoning .....	9
Population Characteristics .....	13

## ***PLAN ELEMENTS***

Residential.....	15
Commercial.....	25
Industrial .....	37
Open Space Retention & Utilization.....	49
Parks and Recreation.....	57
Public Schools.....	69
Other Community Facilities.....	75
Circulation.....	81
Community Environment .....	97

<b><i>PLAN MAP</i></b> .....	103
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<b><i>IMPLEMENTATION</i></b> .....	107
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<b><i>CONCLUSION</i></b> .....	117
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<b><i>STANDARDS AND DEFINITIONS</i></b> .....	119
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# ***List of Tables***

## ***TABLES***

Table 1: Density Ranges .....	16
Table 2: Site and Trade Population Standards for Commercial Centers .....	26
Table 3: Site Area and Development Status of Recreational Facilities Servicing Navajo .....	61
Table 4: Optimum School Enrollment and Usable Site Area Standards .....	70
Table 5: Existing Educational Facilities .....	71

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## **PREFACE**

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The Navajo area of San Diego is approximately 8,000 acres in size and is located in the easterly portion of the City of San Diego. It includes the community areas of Allied Gardens, Del Cerro, Grantville and San Carlos. It is bounded on the north by Mission Gorge, on the east by the cities of El Cajon and La Mesa, on the south by Highway 8 and on the west by the San Diego River channel.

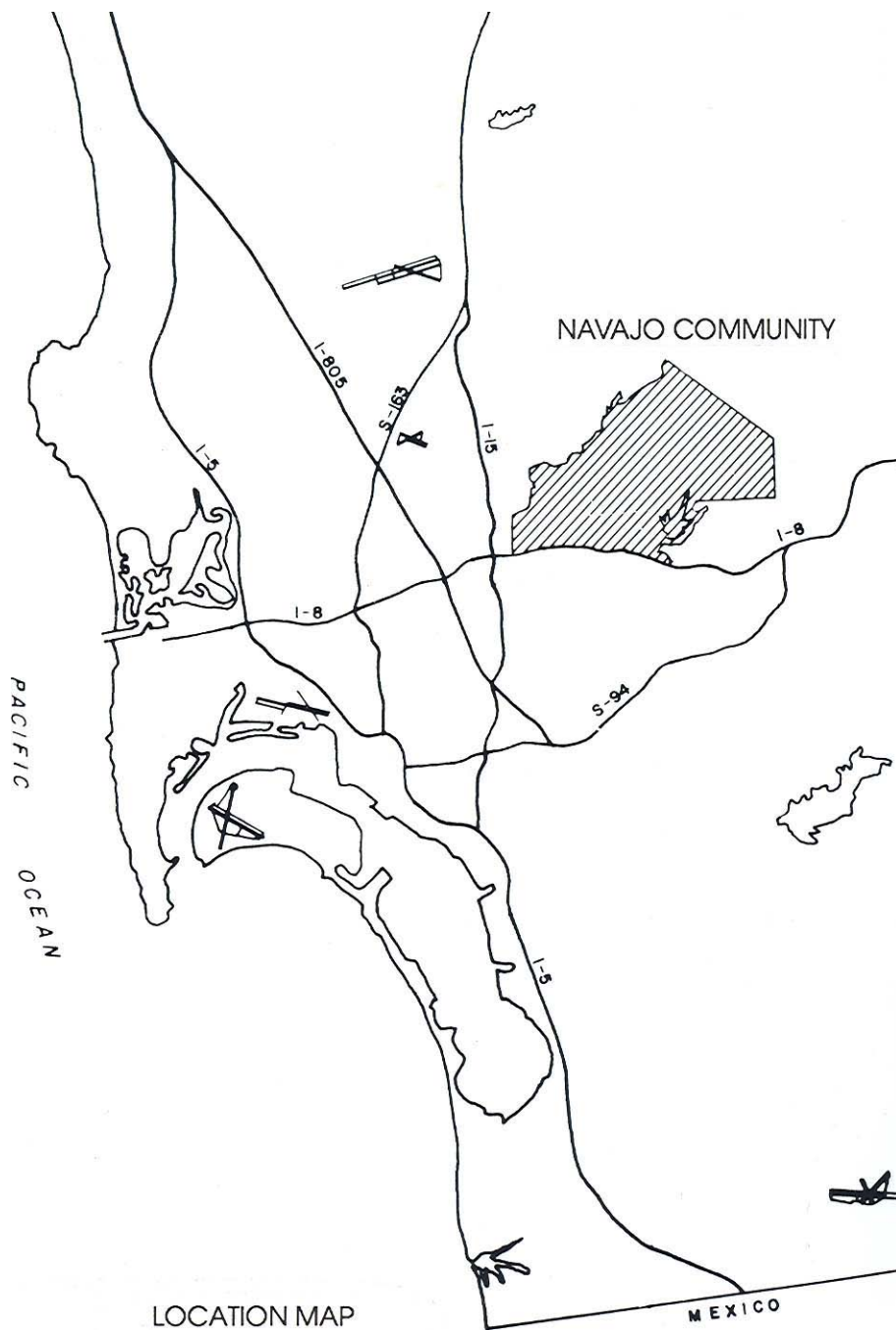
Navajo is conveniently located within the metropolitan area. Employment and shopping are readily accessible within the community and in nearby areas. Grantville, a major employment center, is located within the westerly portion of the community. The Kearny Mesa industrial area, another major employment center, is somewhat farther away, but still convenient to the residents of Navajo. These areas, plus downtown employment centers, are quite accessible by major streets and freeways. In addition to the many industrial facilities within and close to the study area, regional and community shopping centers are located within Navajo and in nearby Kearny Mesa, Mission Valley, La Mesa, El Cajon and downtown San Diego. The overriding objectives for the long-range development of Navajo are to retain the residential character of the area, provide adequate community services, such as police and fire protection, rubbish collection, etc., establish guidelines for the utilization of canyons and hillsides and enhance the environment of the area as a pleasant community in which to live. To assist in accomplishing these objectives, this community plan provides guidelines for public and private development to the year 2000. The plan represents a policy framework that will enable the community and the City to work jointly on more specific studies and action programs. The plan is only an initial step.

While this plan sets forth many proposals for implementation, it does not establish new regulations or legislation nor does it rezone property. However, under the provisions of Section 65860 of the Government Code that requires that the City Zoning Ordinance be consistent with the General Plan, the plan does establish the guidelines for the future preparation or amendment of City ordinances. Zoning, subdivision, housing, building or other development controls must be enacted separately through the legislative process in order to implement the intent of this plan. The implementation section of this plan identifies those steps to be taken.

The need for a flexible document is acknowledged. Nothing can be rigid in view of changing life styles, needs, and technology. However, the recommendations as expressed in this plan, together with the planning principles, should not be allowed to be eroded by individual interpretations but should be kept intact and followed unless amended by due process.

The plan discusses the community environment and major land uses: residential, commercial, open space, industrial, community facilities, and circulation. Elements are presented in terms of existing conditions, development potential or projected needs, objectives and proposals. A plan map presents a composite of all major land use proposals. Finally, the plan concludes with an implementation section which sets forth major projects, public and private, needed to carry out the plan.

Periodic updating of the plan will be necessary as conditions in the community change. Once adopted by Council, any amendments, additions or deletions from the document will require that the Planning Commission and the City Council follow the same procedure of holding public hearings as was followed in adopting the plan originally. Future decisions affecting the environment of the area will be based on the general objectives above as well as the specific recommendations that follow.



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## PHYSIOGRAPHY

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The community is characterized by a wide variety of natural features typical of many other San Diego areas, including flat mesas, steep canyons, and rolling hills. The most prominent feature in the area is Cowles Mountain. Elevations within the community range from a low of around 100 feet above sea level at the westerly edge of Mission Gorge to 1,591 feet at the peak of Cowles Mountain, the highest point in the City.

Within the slopes of Cowles Mountain, there are approximately 4,250 acres of undeveloped land. Approximately 2,230 acres of this land are in steep slopes of 35 percent or greater; 1,070 acres have slopes of 15-35 percent; and the remaining 950 acres are relatively level with slopes of less than 15 percent. Natural vegetation in the community consists mostly of chaparral, sage, and other cover typical of semiarid regions, with some oak and sycamore trees in the canyons. The soil composition is basically alluvium, slope wash and sedimentary rocks. The high quality hard blue rock located in Mission Gorge is processed into sand and gravel by commercial enterprises.

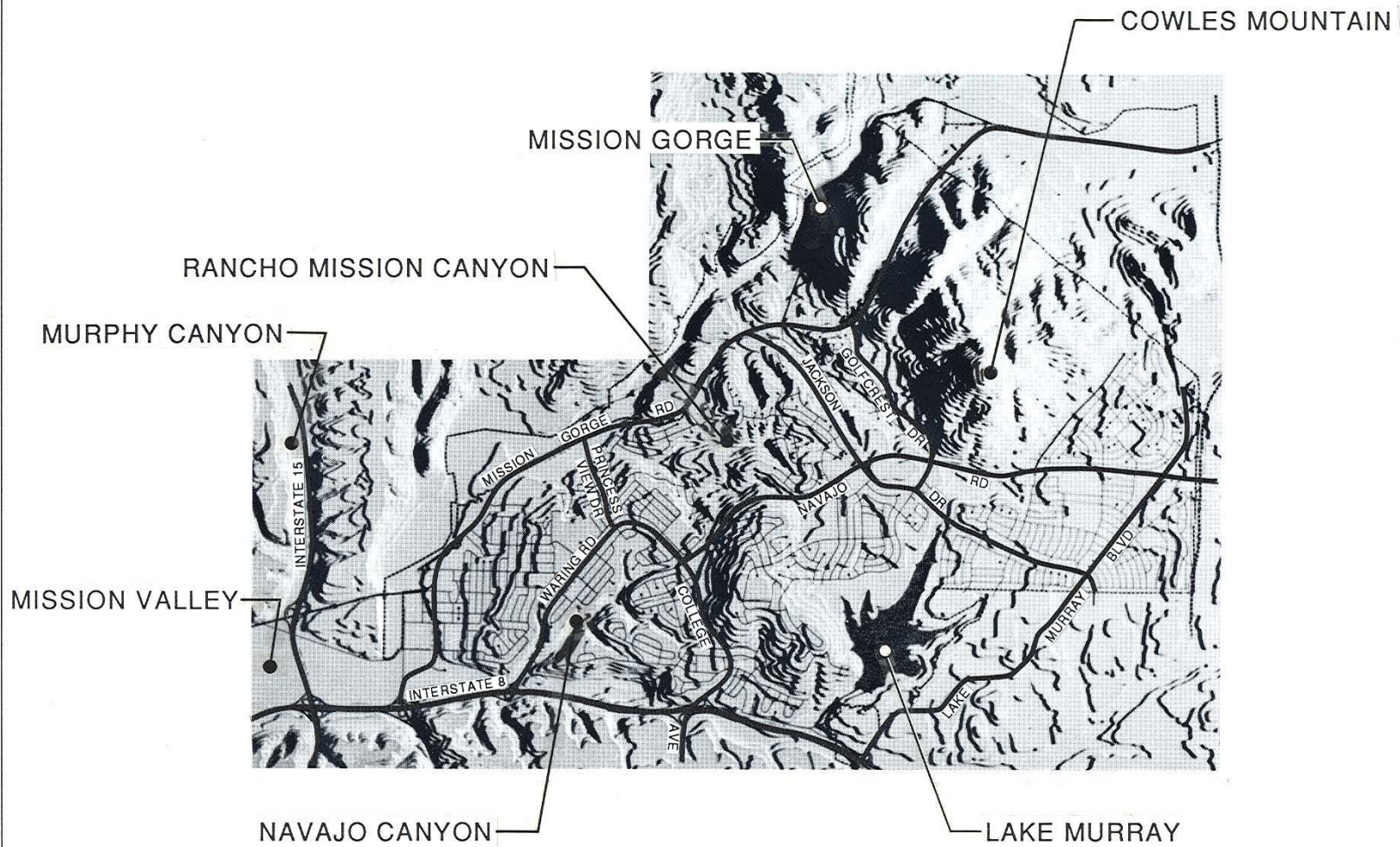
Three sedimentary formations exist in areas of the community that, when combined, form an unstable soil condition. This unstable condition can be responsible for groundwater seepage and landslides. Measures should be taken when development is proposed in these areas that would reduce the geological hazard impacts to a level of insignificance. One such measure is the application of the Geologic Hazard Overlay category. The overlay identifies areas that, where such soil conditions exist, the developer is to provide an as-built geologic report prior to issuance of building permits by the City, and is required to provide homeowner warranties against landslides for a period of ten years following the first sale of any developed property (Council Resolution No. R-254954 adopted August 31, 1981).

There are several unique features in the area. Mission Gorge on the north is the site of the early Mission Dam and is a State Historical Landmark. Centered in the southeastern part of the community is Lake Murray, a City-owned reservoir which also serves as a recreation facility. The lake, proposed for continued aquatic recreational use, contains 140 surface acres of water surrounded by approximately 416 acres of City-owned land. A public golf course is located within this area.

Natural runoff from the community drains into the San Diego River to the north and west and Alvarado Canyon to the south. The natural ground water of the San Diego River is being used by the sand and gravel processors. The river is subject to flooding that, of course, should be considered when allocating land use for the floodplain. Rainfall in the area is slightly less than 10 inches a year, which is consistent with the overall San Diego average.



## TOPOGRAPHIC RELIEF MAP



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## BACKGROUND

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The study area is closely tied to early California history. Navajo has always been a prime location in the San Diego area--near water, in the vicinity of good land for cultivation and at the crossroads of five major trails: the Mission Trail (now known as Friars Road), Murphy Canyon Road, Yard Road, Alvarado Trail and Mission Gorge Road. California's first mission was located on the Rancheria Nipaguay, adjacent to the area, probably because of the choice location.

Formal dedication of the Presidio of San Diego de Alcalá by Father Junipero Serra occurred on July 16, 1769. The City of Saint Didacus began to produce changes on the landscape. The good Fathers needed a guaranteed supply of water; thus, the first irrigation project in California was begun. From 1812 to 1816, Indian laborers constructed what is known as the Old Mission Dam in Mission Gorge with a six-mile transmission ditch to the Mission.

In 1835, the Missions were secularized by the Mexican Government. At that time, Mission Ranch of San Diego de Alcalá encompassed 58,875.38 acres. It was the second largest Rancho in San Diego County, extending eastward from the San Diego Pueblo boundary to El Cajon Rancho, and northward from Rancho de la Nación to what is now Miramar Naval Air Station.

Before secularization, the area (El Cajon Rancho) was included in the lands of the San Diego Mission and was one of the Mission's most valuable grazing areas. As defined by an early land commission, this rancho extended northeasterly from La Mesa to a point north of the San Diego River above El Monte Park and over the area now occupied by El Cajon, Bostonia, Santee, Lakeside and Flinn Springs.

In 1887, plans for a town site were laid out by the Junipero Land and Water Company. Plans for a Soldier's Home to be located at Grant Circle were included. The official name registered with the Post Office was Orchard, but the area became known as Grantville in honor of President U. S. Grant.

In 1948, the so-called Waring Tract, comprising approximately 460 acres, was annexed to the City of San Diego. Following this, the Southern Title and Trust Company Tract was annexed in 1951. This second annexation covered 1,152 acres and was subsequently developed as Allied Gardens. Waring Tract No.2 was annexed in 1954. This annexation was one of the largest in the City of San Diego and consisted of almost 5,000 acres.

The San Carlos and Del Cerro communities have been developed within this area. Since the Waring Tract No.2 annexation there have been numerous smaller annexations on the northern periphery lying generally along Mission Gorge. The last annexation was in 1982, with most annexations occurring between 1953 and 1954.





GRANTVILLE FROM KENSINGTON 1927

Historical collection, Title Insurance and Trust Company, San Diego, Ca.



NAVAJO - 1958

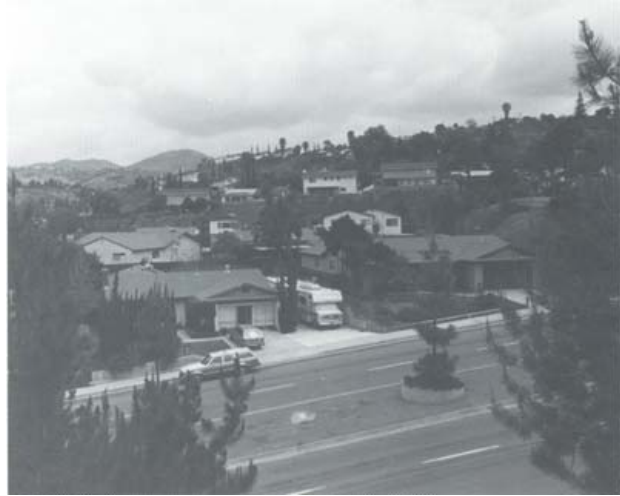


On January 28, 1971, concerned residents of Allied Gardens, Del Cerro and San Carlos met to organize a community plan committee. As a result of that meeting, the Mission-Navajo-Del Cerro-San Carlos Community Plan Committee (now Navajo Community Planners) was formed, consisting of members representing the numerous community groups that already existed in the area.

In June of 1971, the City Council endorsed the Navajo Community Planners. This Committee was asked to represent the Navajo area and to work with the City Manager's office and Planning Department in the development of a community plan consistent with community goals and objectives.

The role of the Committee was to review and analyze background information, formulate community objectives, and to conduct a program to keep the community informed of its progress. City staff provided the necessary technical studies.

Liaison was maintained with area residents and other groups both inside and outside the community.



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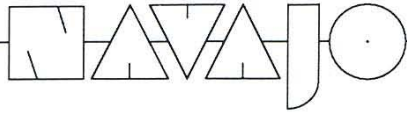
## EXISTING LAND USE AND ZONING

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Of the total zoned land in the Navajo area, 52 percent, or 4,021 acres, is zoned for single-family homes; 4.5 percent, or 353 acres, is zoned for multiple family use; 2 percent, or 155 acres, is zoned for commercial use; and about 3 percent, or 238 acres, is zoned for industrial use. The remaining 38.5 percent of the area, or 3,029 acres, located predominantly in the southern and eastern sections of the area, including Cowles Mountain, is zoned for agriculture and the San Diego River floodway.

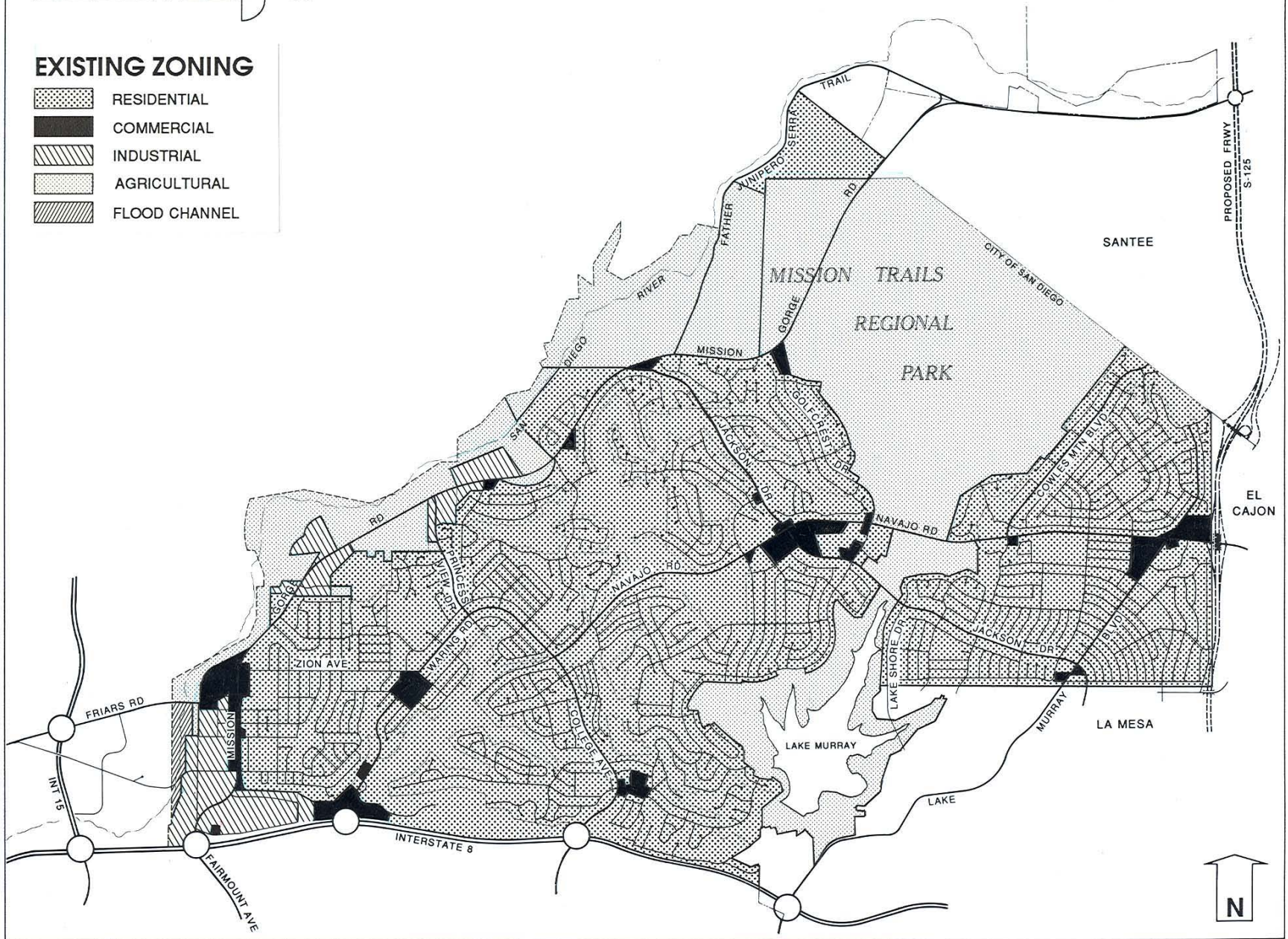


Public and semi-public uses and single-family homes are the predominant land uses within the community. Public and semi-public uses occupy 39.5 percent of the area or 3,099 acres. Single-family homes occupy approximately 37.5 percent or 2,924 acres while multi-family, commercial, and industrial uses comprise only 9 percent of the area or 700 acres. Approximately 14 percent of the developed area is in streets and the remaining area is vacant.



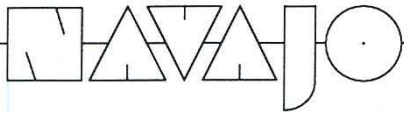
## EXISTING ZONING

	RESIDENTIAL
	COMMERCIAL
	INDUSTRIAL
	AGRICULTURAL
	FLOOD CHANNEL



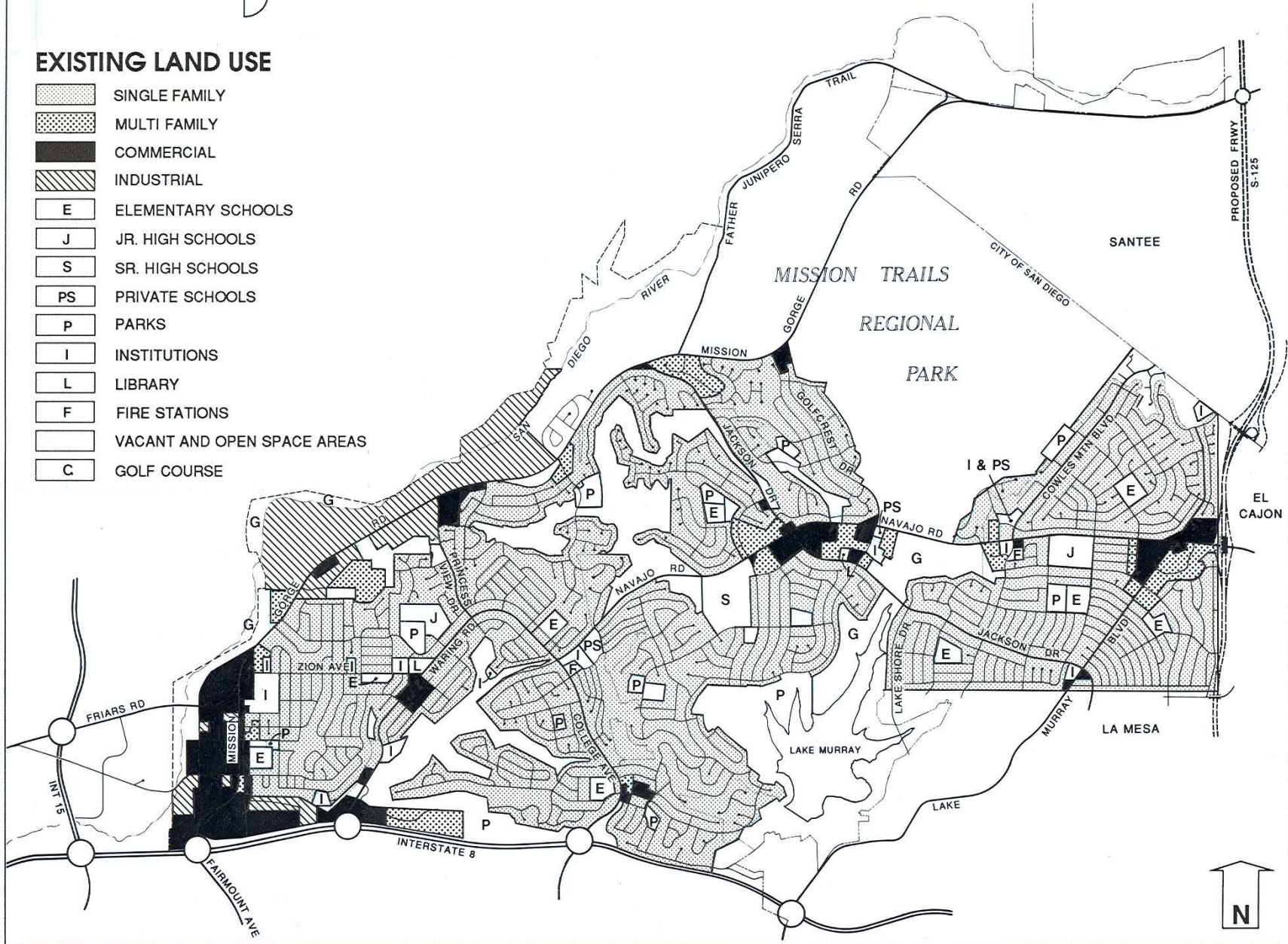
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## EXISTING LAND USE

	SINGLE FAMILY
	MULTI FAMILY
	COMMERCIAL
	INDUSTRIAL
	E ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS
	J JR. HIGH SCHOOLS
	S SR. HIGH SCHOOLS
	PS PRIVATE SCHOOLS
	P PARKS
	I INSTITUTIONS
	L LIBRARY
	F FIRE STATIONS
	VACANT AND OPEN SPACE AREAS
	C GOLF COURSE



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## POPULATION CHARACTERISTICS

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The Navajo community is one of San Diego's established communities. The 1980 census counted 50,005 people in this community. This population count represents an increase of 32,640 people, or 187 percent, since the 1960 census.

Approximately 82 percent of the dwelling units within Navajo are owner occupied. The occupancy rate is 95.01 percent. The development of tract homes is subsiding, while condominium and Planned Residential Development activity in the area is increasing.

The 1975 census shows a decline from 1970 in the number of children in the 0-5 age group within the area. If the trend continues, the demand for additional elementary grade classrooms may not be as acute as previous projections have indicated. As the community grows toward total development, one might expect the age composition to change in the direction of smaller average family size and an increase in the adult population, a trend which seems to be established in older developed areas.

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1. All statistics compiled by City of San Diego Planning Department.